

Amendments to the claims:

Please replace all prior versions and listings of the claims with the following amended claims:

- 1 1. (Previously Amended) A decorating medium for creating relief art on a substrate surface,
2 the medium comprising:
 - 3 a. a water-based emulsion body;
 - 4 b. an expandable polymer with a blowing agent encapsulated therein,
5 wherein the medium is cured and expanded when heated after application to the
6 substrate surface; and
 - 7 c. a preservative selected from the group consisting of Hydroxyalkyl-1-aza-3,7-
8 dioxabicyclo(3.3.0) octane, Tetrachlorisophthalonitrile 1,2-Benzisothiazolin-3-
9 one, and Phenoxyethanol.
- 1 2. (Original) The decorating medium of claim 1, wherein the water-based emulsion body
2 comprises an acrylic binder and an acrylic thickener.
- 1 3. (Original) The decorating medium of claim 2, wherein the acrylic binder is selected from
2 the group consisting of Vinyl Acetate-Ethylene Polymer, Vinyl Acetate-Vinyl Chloride-
3 Ethylene Terpolymer and a Vinyl-Acrylic Polymer.
- 1 4. (Currently Amended) The decorating medium of claim 2, wherein the acrylic binder is in
2 ~~the~~ a range of 25 to 95 percent of ~~the~~ a total weight of the decorating medium.
- 1 5. (Currently Amended) The decorating medium of claim 2, wherein the ~~thickener is pH~~
2 ~~sensitive and that causes viscosity of the decorating medium to increase to~~ decorating
3 medium has a viscosity in a range of 3,000 to 25,000 centipoise ~~and in a pH range of 7.0~~
4 ~~to 9.0.~~
- 1 6. (Original) The decorating medium of claim 2, wherein the acrylic thickener is in a range
2 of 0.5 to 10 % percent of the weight of the decorating medium.
- 1 7. (Previously Amended) The decorating medium of claim 1, wherein the preservative is in
2 the range of 0.005 to 0.50 percent of total weight of the medium.

- 1 8. (Canceled).
- 1 9. (Original) The decorating medium of claim 1, wherein the expandable polymer is a
2 Polyvinylidene Chloride polymer encapsulating an alkane blowing agent.
- 1 10. (Original) The decorating medium of claim 9, wherein the blowing agent is Isobutane.
- 1 11. (Previously Amended) A system for decorating surfaces, the system comprising:
2 a. a water based heat curable and expandable medium;
3 b. a water compatible decorating additive for mixing with the heat curable and
4 expandable medium; and
5 c. a preservative selected from the group consisting of Hydroxyalkyl-1 -aza- 3, 7-
6 dioxabicyclo(3.3.0) octane, Tetrachlorisophthalonitrile 1,2-Benzisothiazolin-3-
7 one, Phenoxyethanol.
- 1 12. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the decorating additive is a coloring agent
2 selected from the group consisting of ink, dye, food coloring, acrylic paint, finger paint
3 and tempera paint.
- 1 13. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the water based heat curable and expandable
2 medium comprises:
3 a. an emulsion body comprising an acrylic binder and an acrylic thickener or a
4 cellulosic thickener; and
5 b. an expandable polymer with a blowing agent encapsulated therein,
6 wherein the medium is cured and expanded when heated to temperatures below
7 140 Celsius.
- 1 14. (Original) The system of claim 13, wherein the acrylic binder is selected from the group
2 consisting of Vinyl Acetate-Ethylene Polymer, Vinyl Acetate-Vinyl Chloride-Ethylene
3 Terpolymer and Vinyl-Acrylic Polymer.
- 1 15. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 13, wherein the acrylic binder is in ~~the~~ a range
2 of 25 to 95 percent of ~~the~~ a total weight of the medium.

- 1 16. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 13, wherein the ~~thickener is pH sensitive and~~
2 ~~that causes the viscosity of the decorating medium to increase to~~ decorating medium has a
3 viscosity in a range of 3,000 to 25,000 centipoise ~~and~~ in a pH range of 7.0 to 9.0.
- 1 17. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 14, wherein the acrylic thickener is in a range
2 of 0.5 to 10 percent of ~~the~~ a weight of the medium.
- 1 18. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11, wherein the preservative is in ~~the~~ a range
2 of 0.005 to 0.50 percent of ~~the~~ a total weight of the medium.
- 1 19. (Canceled).
- 1 20. (Original) The system of claim 13, wherein the expandable polymer is a Polyvinylidene
2 Chloride polymer emulsulating an alkane blowing agent.
- 1 21. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 20, wherein the alkane blowing agent is
2 Isobutane.
- 1 Claims 22-39 (canceled).
- 1 40. (Currently Amended) A liquid decorating medium for creating relief art on a substrate
2 surface, the liquid decorating medium comprising:
3 a. a water-based emulsion body; and
4 b. an expandable polymer with a blowing agent encapsulated therein,
5 wherein the liquid decorating medium has a viscosity in a range of 3,000 to
6 25,000 centipoise and is capable of being applied directly onto the substrate
7 surface in a pattern and subsequently cured to form a relief of the pattern.
- 1 41. (Currently Amended) A system for decorating surfaces, the system comprising:
2 a. a liquid decorating medium comprising:
3 i. a water based heat curable and expandable medium; and
4 ii. a water compatible decorating additive for mixing with the heat curable
5 and expandable medium; and
6 b. a liquid dispenser with a nozzle for dispensing the liquid decorating medium
7 directly onto ~~the surfaces~~ a surface in a pattern from the nozzle.